(c) whether even at 10 per cent mandatory usage of ethanol, India's requirement is not more than 120 crore litres and India having created production capacity of more than 130 crore litres, how is the MoU decision justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. An MoU has been signed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limted (BPCL) with Brazil's National Oil Company, Petroleo Brasilerio S.A.-Petrobras on 30.8.2007. Under the objects of the MoU both the parties with endeavour jointly to undertake studies in matters related to:—

(i) The use and trading of fuel ethanol globally;

(ii) Co-operation in areas of ethanol plant investments in Brazil in order to meet global demand of fuel ethanol;

(iii) Extending co-operation to bio-diesel production and manufacturing process as well as R&D technology, including transfer of technology for ethanol; and

(iv) Conduct joint studies on efficient means of transportation and joint investment in Logistics Infrastructure for ethanol in Brazil.

(b) and (c) The scope of MoU does not cover import of fuel ethanol to India and hence does not jeopardize the interest of Indian sugarcane farmers.

Procurement of oil blocks in foreign countries.

246. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to procure oil blocks in foreign countries to ensure energy secruity for India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements made, if any, with other countries, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India's strategy for securing Energy Security which has been incorporated in "Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" a document of Government of India, includes investment in equity oil abroad. The significant steps, initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for enhancing energy security, *inter alia*, include equity oil and gas from abroad.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Procurement of oil blocks in foreign countries

No agreement has been signed for oil exploration and production in oil fields abroad by the Government with foreign countries during the last two years. However, Government of India has signed an Agreement on cooperation in the Hydrocarbon sector with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 5th March, 2005. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on behalf of Government of India has also signed eight Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbons with foreign Governments, namely, Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Romania; Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey; Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea; National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) of the Peoples' Republic of China (two MOUs); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan; US Energy Information Administration (US EIA) and UZBEKNEFTGAZ the National Holding Company of Uzbekistan during the year 2005-2007.

2. The Agreement with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela provides for mutual actions of cooperation in the area of hydrocarbon resources, liquid and gas hydrocarbons and their derivatives, and of research and development, exploration, production, processing, development, refining, marketing and transportation of hydrocarbons and development of human resources.

3. The MoU with Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Romania provides for cooperation in oil and gas related matters mainly in the fields of basic and applied research and development; manufacture, upgrading and supply of drilling rigs and petrochemicals processing units; oil energy and environment issues; training and technical assistance; risk management; environmental protection including oil spill emergency response systems etc.

4. The MoU with Ministry of Energy and National Resources of the Republic of Turkey provides for cooperation to promote links between Indian and Turkish companies in undertaking Exploration and Production (E&P) oil and gas pipeline initiatives in Turkey and abroad; undertake basic and applied research and development, manufacture, upgrading and supply of drilling rigs and petrochemical processing units; environmental issues; development of regional energy infrastructure network; training etc.

5. The MoU with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, Korea provides for cooperation in the field of oil and gas between Indian and Korean companies in undertaking E&P initiatives in India and third countries; basic and applied research and development; manufacture, upgrading and supply of drilling rigs; cooperation in underground petroleum storage facility and allied activities; oil energy and environmental issues; training; Environmental protection, including oil spill emergency response systems etc.

6. The MoUs with NDRC, China provides for cooperative participation in upstream and downstream projects in India, China and third countries; joint pursuit of R&D proposals particularly in the areas of increased oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery; bring together their significant position in the international oil market by exploring the possibility of joint purchases of crude oil and gas, etc.

7. The MoU with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan, was signed for exchange of information and technology with respect to strategic oil and gas reserves and to network with each other to promote greater mutual understanding of the global economy.

8. The MoU with US EIA provides for exchange of annual hydrocarbon sector market statistics, other related data and information concerning fuel characteristics, refining capacity,

reserves and other hydrocarbon sector information, statistical methods, analytical techniques and systems documentation and electronic information dissemination.

9. The MoU with UZBEKNEFTGAZ provides for bilateral cooperation in different areas of hydrocarbon sector, including joint bids for assets, bidding in NELP rounds for participation in the Indian E&P sector, and cooperation in regard to R&D technology, training of specialists and promotion of environment friendly fuels.

10. The MoUs with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Romania, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea will establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship and encourage and promote bilateral cooperation on oil and natural gas development issues. The MoU with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan will help us in acquiring know-how in setting up our strategic storage which will enhance our energy security and meet supply disruptions and emergency exigencies. The MoU with U'S EIA would result in exchange of hydrocarbon sector information to complement existing hydrocarbon sector statistics and other hydrocarbon sector market information. The MoU with Uzbekistan is intended to help Indian Oil PSUs to secure oil & gas assets in Uzbekistan and third countries.

11. This Government-to-Government dialogue and MoUs have resulted in creating a conducive environment for the companies to cooperate in acquiring assets in third countries. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has acquired an oil asset in Syria with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and another asset in Colombia with China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC). In addition, OVL as well as other National Oil Companies (NOCs) such as Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporatin Ltd. (HPCL) have acquired participating interests in Oil and Gas projects in 20 countries. Total investment made by NOCs in Overseas E&P projects as at the end of 2006 was approx. Rs. 21000 crore.

Functioning of LPG distributors in U.P.

247. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many LPG distributors in Uttar Pradesh are not reporting the number of consumers correctly;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the LPG distributors in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Balia district are giving gas cylinders to people without giving them required papers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any instances of LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh who are not reporting the correct number of consumers. OMCs have also not reported any established cases where LPG distributors are giving gas cylinders to people without giving them required papers in Uttar Pradesh, including the District of Balia. However, few instances of diversion of domestic LPG for commercial use have come to the notice of OMCs.

(c) to (d) Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.